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NEWS AT RANDOM

PUBLISHER'S ANNOUNCEMENT.

It is very much regretted that, through circumstances beyond our control, considerable inconvenience may have been suffered by our Readers and Advertisers through the recent printing dispute, during which period three numbers of the "Swiss Observer" have not been printed. The relative adjustments have been made to Subscribers' and Advertisers' accounts.

Federal

The Federal Council has appointed Monsieur Pierre-Henri Aubaret, at present Consul-General in Wellington, to the post of Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary in Indonesia, in succession to Monsieur Arnold Sonderegger, who has been transferred to Denmark.

The new Ambassador was born in 1913, and is a citizen of Geneva. He studied Law at the Universities of Berne and Geneva, and entered the Diplomatic Service in 1940. Monsieur Aubaret successively held posts in London and Delhi. In 1955 he was appointed Consul-General in Wellington. In 1957 he was for six months Head of the Swiss delegation to the Neutral Nations Commission for the Repatriation of Prisoners of War in Korea. (We extend heartiest congratulations to M. Aubaret, who during his stay in London made many friends.—ED.)

The Swiss Legation in the Philippines has been raised to the status of Embassy, and Monsieur Walter Hofer, hitherto Swiss Minister in Manila, has received Ambassadorial rank.

Ambassador Hofer was born in 1905 in Ballmoos (Ct. Berne). He entered the service of the Federal Political Department (Swiss Foreign Office) in 1926, and successively held posts at Milan, Montreal, Winnipeg, Vienna, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Santiago de Chile, Algiers and Tenerife.

The Ambassadors of Denmark (Madame Bodil Gertrud Begtrup) and the Philippines (Monsieur

Tomas de Castro) and the Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of Monaco (Monsieur Henry Socum), have presented their credentials to Monsieur Paul Chaudet, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Monsieur Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, at the Palais Fédéral in Berne.

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 17 million passengers during the month of May 1959, or 800,000 less than in May 1958. Receipts: 28.3 million francs (1958: 29.7 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 2 million tons, which is 80,000 tons less than during the same period in 1958. Receipts: 39.6 million francs (1958: 41.1 million francs).

Customs receipts for the month of May 1959 totalled 83.1 million francs, of which amount the Confederation receives 58.7 million francs, or 2.1 million francs less than in May 1958.

During the first five months of the current year the receipts amounted to 228.6 million francs, which is 4 million francs less than during the same period in 1958.

On the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the University of Geneva, Monsieur Henry de Torrenté, Swiss Ambassador in Washington, has been honoured with the degree of *doctor honoris causa*.

The election for the new National Council (196 members), which is due every four years, will be held on Sunday, 25th October, 1959.

The Federal Council has given a dinner, at the castle of Chillon (Ct. Vaud), to the foreign diplomats accredited to the Confederation.

CITY SWISS CLUB

MEETING

followed by card playing

Tuesday, 8th September 1959, at 6.30 for 7 o'clock

at the

DORCHESTER HOTEL,

PARK LANE, W.1.

THE COMMITTEE.